

whitish-ochre centre and an edging of the same tint, producing crescentic barring or ornamentation to those parts; a few of the feathers on the right and left anterior breast have half the web black with a central white bar. Abdomen dull dingy pale ochreous. The under tail-coverts are mottled white, black, and ruddy brown; the longer feathers being tipped pure white, succeeded by a black bar, then rich chestnut, and black at the base. The scapulars and secondary coverts are, on the inner web, more or less velvet-black, mottled with the same colour on a sienna ground, on the outer web narrowly tipped whitish, forming three wing-bands (two distinct, one rather broken). The secondaries are mottled in the same manner with four irregular blackish bars crossing each feather, every bar margined on the outside with pale ruddy ochre and margined at the end with pale ochre. The primaries are dark sepia-brown, with four elongate ochre spots on the outer web, the inner web at all these points having a mottling of chestnut. Wing greyish within. Dimensions—wing 8·25 inches, tail 7·0, bill in front 1·0, bill from gape 1·2, tarsus 2·2.

The female of this species thus differs from that of *P. ellioti* in not possessing the black on the throat; besides, the white underparts of that bird (which are in keeping with those of the male) are also absent. The tail would appear to be the same; and the red nude skin round the eye is also to be made out.

When I first saw this bird, it reminded me very much of the coloration of *Bambusicola fytchi*, a common bird in the Naga hills, in spite of the difference in size and other characters; and certainly there is, in the lower back and rump, a curious similarity. Subdue in *B. fytchi* its rusty colouring, and reduce the black on the breast to the dull ochraceous barring of this Pheasant, and it would be still closer in resemblance; one can trace on the sides of the breast in *P. humilæ* that a few of the feathers are black, while in the *Bambusicola*, in the female, the outer tail-feathers are tipped blackish with a white edging.

This bird is a true *Phasianus*; and I do not consider that there are characters sufficient to place it in a new genus, as was proposed by Mr. Elliot when he created the term *Calophasis* in 1872 for *Ph. ellioti*.

6. Notes on a Species of Stick Insect reared in the Insect-House in the Society's Gardens. By ARTHUR THOMSON¹.

[Received November 15, 1882.]

(Plate LII.)

One of the most curious and interesting insects that has been reared in the Insect-House during the past season is a species of Stick Insect (*Bacillus patellifer*, Bates, Trans. Linn. Soc. xxv.

¹ Communicated by the Secretary.



J. Smal. lith.

J. Smal. lith.

Hanhart imp.

BACILLUS PATELLIFER. ♀



p. 328¹). The ova of this insect were sent to England by Mr. J. Wood-Mason, F.Z.S., to whom the Society is indebted for many interesting additions to the collection of insects.

The ova were received from Cachar in October last year, and were at once placed in one of the glass cases containing a young growing orange-tree and some grass. The young insects did not emerge till March of the present year; and I regret to say that most of them died when a few days old. One specimen, however, is still living and doing well. When young it fed upon grass; but when nearly half-grown it began to devour the leaves of the orange-tree; and it and one other specimen which died almost denuded the tree of its leaves.

The specimen now living is a female, it having quite recently laid eggs, and is therefore, I have no doubt, quite adult. It has shed its "skin" several times since it emerged from the egg, the last occasion being the 27th June, but has not shed its skin since that time. The last three shed skins (which are not quite perfect) were shed at intervals of about one month; these I beg leave to exhibit herewith, together with a sketch of the living insect (Plate LII.), the eggs recently laid, and also the specimen which died when nearly half-grown, and two specimens showing the size of the insect when first hatched. The young are very active, and climb up the surface of the glass easily.

The operation of shedding the "skin" is very simple: the skin splits down the back; and the insect gradually draws out its legs and body, and at once crawls away, leaving the shed skin quite moist and limp.

The specimen at present living did not eat for some time before laying the eggs, but since then has commenced to feed again.

December 19, 1882.

Prof. Flower, LL.D., F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

The Secretary read the following report on the additions made to the Society's Menagerie during the month of November 1882:—

The total number of registered additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of November was 96, of which 1 was by birth, 58 by presentation, 17 by purchase, 5 were received in exchange, and 15 on deposit. The total number of departures during the same period by death and removals was 109.

The following additions are of special interest:—

1. A collection of Reptiles from the Western States of North America, presented by Samuel Garman, Esq., of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Mass., U. S. A., November 3. Amongst these are examples of several species new to the Society's

¹ As determined by Prof. Westwood from a drawing of the adult female living in the Gardens.—P. L. S.

collection. Mr. Garman writes to me as follows concerning this collection:—

“I ship by steamer leaving Boston, October 21, a box containing 6 *Holbrookia maculata*, 5 *Sceloporus undulatus*, var., 8 *Phrynosoma douglasii*, 3 *Pityophis sayi*, 3 *Crotalus confluentus*, and 1 *Eutania parietalis*, from South-western Dakota; and 1 *Cistudo virginea* from N.E. Massachusetts.

“The *Holbrookia* is common in certain localities in South-western Dakota and North-western Nebraska. It is found on dry sandy flats and hills of the Uplands.

“*Sceloporus* is found in the same section, but generally along grassy banks on the edges of gullies, in situations more moist than those chosen by the preceding.

“*Phrynosoma* was numerously represented here and there in restricted localities near *Sceloporus* and *Holbrookia*. Most often it was found on the sunny slopes along depressions that had been water-courses in the spring. Like the *Holbrookia*, they choose the hottest and dustiest places they can find. Their food in August consisted principally of ants and Coleoptera.

“*Pityophis sayi*, the ‘Bull Snake,’ is a common Serpent among the sand-hills of Western Nebraska.

“*Crotalus confluentus* was common in the Mauvaises Terres, but rare in the sand-hills. Residents asserted that they did not occur there; but the discovery of three specimens afterwards proved these assertions to be inaccurate.

“*Eutania parietalis* is the common Water-Snake of the Dakota bad lands. They were so tame as to take fish from our sides when we were fishing, and would not let go even when the fish was taken in hand and shaken vigorously. Box Turtles are rarely met with so far north, though they have been taken in Maine.”

The following species in Mr. Garman’s collection are new to us:—

Holbrookia maculata,
Sceloporus garmani, sp. nov.¹
Phrynosoma douglassii,
*Tropidonotus sirtalis*².

2. An Isabelline Lynx (*Felis isabellina*, Blyth³), presented by Capt. Baldock, R.A., and received November 23. Capt. Baldock, writing from Calcutta on the 30th of September, states that the Lynx was then some two or three months old, and had been obtained at Astor in Ballistan, about 100 miles north of Cashmere, from a villager.

¹ Vide infra, p. 761, Pl. LVI.

² *Eutania parietalis* of Mr. Garman.

³ Mr. Elliot unites the Lynx of Tibet and the adjoining districts to *F. lynx* of Europe. But I think it rather doubtful whether this is correct, and prefer to leave it for the present under Blyth’s designation (J. A. S. B. xvi. pt. 2, p. 1178, et P. Z. S. 1863, p. 186).